



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P.A. Graef et al.

Attorney Docket No.: WEYE111558

Application No.: 09/137,503

Group Art Unit: 3761

Filed: August 20, 1998

Examiner: D. Ruhl

Title: UNITARY STRATIFIED COMPOSITE

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AMENDMENT A

Seattle, Washington 98101

October 10, 2002

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the Office Action dated April 22, 2002, in the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows. The time period for response has been extended three (3) months, to expire October 22, 2002, pursuant to the Request for Extension of Time enclosed herewith.

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 34, to read as follows:

Although not to be construed as a limitation, other examples of pretreating fibers include the application of fire retardants to the fibers, or treatments with surfactants or other liquids, such as water or solvents, which modify the surface of the fibers. See, for example, U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/669,406, now U.S. Patent No. 5,837,627, filed July 3, 1996, and entitled "Fibrous Web Having Improved Strength and Method of Making the Same." Still other pretreatments include exposure to or incorporation of antimicrobials, pigments and densification or softening agents. Fibers pretreated with other chemicals, such as thermoplastic and thermosetting resins also may be used. Combinations of pretreatments also may be employed. Absorbent webs may also be similarly treated after web formation.

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